(b) whether Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco exports is likely to go up during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the estimated quantity of the above variety to be grown and exported during 1996-97;

(d) whether the Government propose to cover more area under Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco in Karnataka to boost exports;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to provide remunerative prices to the tobacco growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) FCV Tobacco crop size authorised for production by the Tobacco Board during 1996-97 crop season is 112.84 million kgs. The export projections of FCV Tobacco for the year 1996-97 is 54,500 MTs (packed weight).

(d) & (e). Keeping in view the increased demand for FCV tobacco in the international markets, the authorised crop size for FCV tobacco in Karnataka has been increased from 25.24 million kgs. in 1995-96 to 29.50 million kgs. in 1996-97 which will entail an increase in area.

(f) Steps taken to provide remunerative prices to the growers *inter-alia,* include :

(i) fixing of the FCV tobacco crop size so as to match the domestic and export demand with supply,

(ii) Operating auction platforms to ensure a process of competitive bidding,

(iii) declaring minimum support price (MSP),

(iv) negotiating with the trade for announcement of minimum guaranteed price by the trade which is normally higher than MSP,

(v) implementing development/extension schemes for improvement of quality and yield of tobacco, and

(vi) promoting Indian tobacco in overseas markets.

Financial Irregularities in Oriental Bank of Commerce

5776. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI investigation has revealed financial irregularities to the tune of Rs. 30 crores at Oriental Bank of Commerce;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether the Reserve Bank of India has also investigated into some major branches of the nationalised banks in Mumbai;

(c) if so, whether there has been a large scale irregularities found in nationalised banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the step being taken to check recurrence of such irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that a case relating to financial irregularities to the tune of Rs. 15 crores at some Mumbai branches of Oriental Bank of Commerce has been registered in January, 1996 and the case has not yet been finalised. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also reported that inspection/special scrutiny was conducted in Regional Office and four branches of Oriental Bank of Commerce in Mumbai. Information readily available relating to number of frauds and amount involved in public sector banks during 1994-95 is given below :

	Total No. of frauds	Amounts involved (Rs. in crores)
1994	2266	200.07
1995	1890	115.51

The public sector banks at the instance of Government and RBI have taken several steps from time to time for checking corruption and prevention fo frauds. These steps include issue of comprehensive guidelines by RBI to strengthen the control mechanism in banks, review of fraud cases on a continuous basis by RBI, advising the banks of *modus-operandi* in ingenious cases alongwith required safeguards to prevent their recurrence, proper training of operational personnel and investigations and scrutiny into reported cases of major frauds as well as snap inspections covering systems and procedures and control arrangements in fraud prone areas by the Department of Supervision in RBI.

[Translation]

Package for Textile Processing Sector

5777. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased ot state :

(a) the details of the progress made on the package to encourage investment including foreign investment including foreign investment through joint ventures in Textile Processing Sector;

(b) the programmes likely to be chalked out through this package;

(c) the amount of expenditure (including foreign exchange) likely to be incurred on this package; and

(d) the details of the time bound programme of the package ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d). No specific package to encourage investment including foreign investment through joint ventures in textile

processing sector has been worked out. However, in order to invite foreign investment in textile manufacturing including textile processing sector several measures have been announced in the New Industrial Policy on 24.7.91. Further, to motivate the industry to go in for modernisation of the processing sector, the Govt. had reduced the customs duty on import of specified items of capital goods for the processing sector from 25% to 10% in the Budget 1996-97.

[English]

Production and Export of Turmeric

5778. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 80 per cent of the total production of turmeric of the world produced in the country;

(b) whether quality requirements of turmeric in developed countries are changing day by day; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to educate the growt of turmeric and its exporters about its quality needs in he foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMRCE (SHRI BOLL BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) India is the largest producer of turmeric in the world. Data on the world production of turmeric is not available.

(b) The quality requirements of all food ingrediants including turmeric, undergo modifications on accounts of changes in consumer preferences and health standards.

(c) Some of the measures taken to educate the growers/ exporters about the quality requirements are :

(i) regular training of farmers/exporters on the quality standards laid down by importing countries;

(ii) supply of inputs at subsidised rates for post harvest handling and cleaning;

(iii) extending financial assistance for construction of warehouses and drying yards;

(iv) educating farmers throug distribution of booklets, handbooks, posters etc. (printed in regional languages) on hygenic practices to be adopted for processing, cleaning, storage etc;

(v) training of exporters on improved methods of packaging handling and storage to ensure quality of export produce;

(vi) arranging interaction of exporters with growers to bring about changes in quality stipulations as demanded by the buying countries;

(vii) sponsoring quality/laboratory personnel for training in laboratories abroad on analytical methods.

Direct Foreign Investment

5779. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign investment proposals cleared by the Union Government during the current year till June 30, 1996 and the amount of foreign investment involve therein;

(b) the manner in which it compares with foreign investment proposals approved during the corresponding period in 1994 and 1995;

(c) whether the Government consider the level of foreign investment in the country to be sufficient ; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to encourage more foreign investment in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The number of Foreign Direct Investment proposals cleared and the amount of foreign direct investment envisaged therein during the period from January, 1996 to June, 1996, and for the corresponding period in 1994 and 1995, are as under :

Year	No. of Proposal approved	Amount of foreign direct investment (Rs. in crores)
1994	439	2454.44
1995	581	7716.09
1996	619	11719.43

(c) and (d). After the announcement of New Industrial Policy, the trend in foreign investment is satisfactory. To further augment the foreign direct investment into the country, various incentives have been announced by the Government such as revamping the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and constituting the Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC), capital subsidy, sales tax exemption, power subsidy, allotment of land on priority, setting up of growth centre and transport subsidy in hilly areas.

Jute Cess Fund

5780. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of jute cess fund collected during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent on research and development activities relating to the jute industry during the above period;